

# The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

VOLUME XXIV NUMBER — 50

PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1916

5c. A COPY; \$1.50 A YEAR

## December Meeting Board of County Commissioners

### A RESUME OF PROCEEDINGS

**Adopt Some Important Resolutions — Receive and Approve Bonds of All County Officers — Take Action in Matters Pertaining to Special Drainage Districts in Various Parts of the County and Give Attention to Other Public Business**

The county commissioners met in Arcadia, December 4th, with Chairman L. W. Whitehurst presiding, and Commissioners John Hagan, D. L. Skipper, William Whitten and W. G. Welles present.

The minutes of the previous meetings were read, corrected and approved.

The following banks filed notices of intention to qualify as county depositories: The Punta Gorda Bank, Bank of Sebring, First National Bank of Punta Gorda, The First National Bank of Avon Park, State Bank of Zolfo.

A. S. Conner was appointed custodian of Seminole Park in the town of Citrus Center, to serve without compensation from the county.

The bond of Frank J. Stamm & Son in the sum of \$33,000, to guarantee the faithful performance of the contract of the said Frank J. Stamm & Son with the Charlotte Harbor Special Road and Bridge District, was approved.

The board recommended that the comptroller allow the A. C. L. Railway to redeem block 5, Punta Gorda, at a valuation of \$1,000, the assessed valuation being considered excessive.

J. M. Powell, of Punta Gorda, was placed on the pauper list at \$10 per month, warrant each month be sent to T. H. Sistrunk, president of Associated Charities, to be used for the benefit of the said Powell.

Whereas, By abolishing the office of county treasurer the people of the state of Florida have expressed themselves as opposed to the payment of commissions to officers for the handling of public funds; and,

Whereas, The law providing that trustees be named for the various bond districts also provides for the payment of commissions to the said trustees; and,

Whereas, Qualifying banks have been designated as depositories for other public monies, which said banks not only do not receive a commission for the handling of said monies, but to pay the public interest on the said monies on deposit with the said banks; now, therefore,

Resolved, By the Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto County, that we do hereby petition the 1917 legislature of the state of Florida to enact a law giving to the county commissioners the power and authority to let and contract with any bank the handling of the said special bond funds that will properly qualify and that are the highest and best bidders for the said funds; and, further, that we hereby request our senator, the Hon. A. M. Wilson, and our representative, the Hon. W. C. Langford, to use their influence in securing the passage of the above described law, the public welfare in our opinion, demanding it. Adopted.

Whereas, The Acts of the Legislature of 1915 providing depositories for the various county funds necessitates the inauguration of a needlessly complicated accounting system; and,

Whereas, The said act does give the banks of the various counties certain authority over the funds of the said counties, regardless of the interest of the taxpayers thereof, by making it mandatory upon the Boards of County Commissioners to equitably divide the said funds among the said banks which qualify as said depositories; and,

Whereas, This mandatory provision will, in the majority of

cases, defeat the very reason for the said act, viz: The payment of interest on the deposits of the several counties; and,

Whereas, The said act attempts to work additional hardships upon the taxpayers of the said counties, to the benefit of the said banks, by providing that no warrant shall be drawn except where there are funds in the said bank on which the warrant is drawn, thus attempting to restrict the right of the county commissioners to expend, if necessary, 95 per cent. of the amount of tax levied, and bringing in an element of uncertainty in the making of the annual budget, which is unreasonable, and which will necessitate a larger tax levy than the requirements of the county demand, or that the financial business of the county be not transacted until near this end of the tax year;

Now, therefore, Be it resolved, By the Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto County, that our senator, the Hon. A. M. Wilson, and our representative, the Hon. W. C. Langford, be, and they are hereby requested to use their whole influence and power in the coming session of the legislature of the state of Florida to have the said act repealed, and made of no effect, and that there be enacted in lieu thereof an act giving to the county commissioners of the said counties the right and authority to contract with a bank which is the highest and best bidder, to act as depository for the various county funds for a two-year period, and not restricting the issue of warrants by the said boards of county commissioners, except as provided in the act which limits the same to 95 per cent. of the annual tax levy. Adopted.

The bid of L. W. Pooser for the construction of canals and laterals in Special Drainage District No. 10, at 12 1/2 cents per cubic yard, was accepted.

Bid of the Hanchett Bond Company of Chicago, Ill., for the \$18,000 of bonds of the Special Drainage District No. 10, at \$17.310 and accrued interest, was accepted, provided said Hanchett Bond Company shall accept and pay for said bonds within such time as is considered reasonable by the Board of County Commissioners.

The following bonds were presented and approved:

S. F. J. Trabue justice of the peace; Leslie Lewis, constable; G. L. Crews, justice of the peace; W. E. Bussey, deputy sheriff; Wallace Chadman, notary public; J. C. Waltmire, notary public; M. E. Albritton, county surveyor.

The bonds of the various county officers, the amounts of which are set by the county commissioners, were ordered to be the same in amount as was required of the officers now holding these offices, the county judge's bond being placed at \$1,000; the bond of the circuit court clerk being placed at \$5,000 and the bond of the sheriff at \$7,000.

### Tuesday, December 5th.

The final estimate of the engineer and the final report of the drainage committee of the Arcadia Drainage District was accepted, and the clerk was instructed to return the contractor's bond.

The trustees of the Arcadia Drainage District were requested to place the unused balance of the trustee's fund of the said district, after paying all outstanding obligations, subject to the expense of the said district.

The State Bank of Bowling Green filed application to be designated as a county depository.

A communication from the state tax commission was read, inviting the board to be present at a meeting of the Association of County Commissioners and Tax Assessors at Jacksonville, December 13th to 15th.

Various public road matters of no special interest to Punta Gorda readers were acted upon.

## FARM AND GROVE IN FLORIDA

Agricultural News Service University of Florida College of Agriculture

### Experiment Station Issues New Bulletin

Every citrus grower in the state should be interested in the new publication that will be issued soon by the University of Florida Experiment Station. This is Bulletin 132. Loss of Fertilizers by Leaching, by S. E. Collison, chemist, and S. S. Walker, associate chemist. It contains the results of four years of experiments in fertilizer leaching.

The experiments were conducted with citrus trees in soil tanks on the Station grounds. While the bulletin will be of primary interest to citrus growers it will also be of interest to every fertilizer user in the state. The leaching processes in general are somewhat the same and the discoveries made in these experiments are indicative of what may be expected with other crops.

Copies of the bulletin may be had by writing to the mailing clerk, Experiment Station Building, Gainesville. It will be sent to all persons whose names are on the mailing list.

### Tractor Demonstration Will Be Held at University

Farmers in Florida have been entertaining the tractor bee. Those who attend the University of Florida, Gainesville, January 16 to 19, probably will have opportunity to see several tractors perform. A number of tractor manufacturers have been asked to make demonstrations.

Farmers have been making inquiries concerning the different types of tractors, and their adaptability to Florida conditions. The demonstration will enable farmers to answer their own questions concerning the machines.

### Plant Inspection

For several months the State Plant Board, thru its port and railway inspection department, has inspected all shipments of nursery stock and other plants arriving at Florida ports from foreign countries. Inspectors of the Board are stationed at Jacksonville, Pensacola, Tampa, Miami and Key West and meet all incoming vessels, examining the baggage of passengers and all shipments. Many diseased ship-

ments of diseased plants have been intercepted and returned to the countries from which they came. Among the serious pests recently intercepted and prevented from entering Florida were a gall-insect affecting mango, a leaf disease of mango, borers affecting bamboo and scale insects of various kinds.

The inspectors of the Plant Board engaged in this work are also appointees of the Federal Horticulture Board of the United States Department of Agriculture and enforce the Federal laws and regulations relative to the importation and inspection of plants.

The customs officials at the various ports mentioned also co-operate efficiently in this work.

It will be remembered that the Citrus Seminar at the University of Florida in October, decided to standardize citrus varieties. This action was a result of an appeal made by Leo B. Scott of the United States Bureau of Plant Industry.

Mr. Scott said that the Florida citrus industry was suffering because of lack of standardization and that the fruit was discriminated against in the market because customers could not depend upon the grade of fruit.

It will also be remembered that a committee was appointed to select the orange varieties which should be standardized and that the Seminar approved their choice. The varieties selected were Parson Brown, Homosassa, Pineapple, Valencia and Lou Gim Gong.

That an attempt to standardize varieties was wise is shown by a survey made by the United States Bureau of Crop Estimates. This survey was undertaken to learn percentages of trees of the different varieties. C. C. Hare, field agent for the Bureau in Florida, calls attention to the report:

The percentages of trees of bearing age of the different varieties are as follows: Homosassa 2.2 percent; King 2.2; Lou Gim Gong 2.2; Parson Brown 3; Pineapple 13.5; Ruby Blood 2.3; seedling 40; Tangerine 3; Valencia (Tardiff) 11; all others combined 22.6.

Note that forty percent of the bearing trees are seedlings.

Property owners petitioned that the Tom Williams branch in the Arcadia Drainage District be straightened out to prevent overflow. Referred to attorney.

Regular steps were taken for a road petitioned for by M. F. Mizell and others.

The board recessed to Tuesday, December 12th.

E. Campbell was awarded the contract to paint the jail and repair the roof.

The following bonds were approved:

L. W. Whitehurst, \$2,000; S. B. Hogan, \$2,000; R. W. Roberts, \$500; H. G. Murphy, \$1,000; D. L. Skipper, \$2,000; W. M. Whitten, \$2,000; W. G. Welles, \$2,000; P. G. Shaver, \$1,000; J. W. Bullock, \$2,000; F. B. McClelland, \$2,000; J. L. Dishong, \$7,000; Cyril Baldwin, \$30,000.

## Ready to Talk Peace, but Do Not Halt in Operations

### BY THE TEUTONIC ALLIES

**Continue in Pursuit of the Roumanians, Who Have Lost to Them Four Hundred Thousand Men — Are Attacked Violently by the Russians in the Carpathians — Artillery Activities on the Front in France and Belgium — Mobilization in Greece**

The Teutonic Allies declare themselves ready to discuss peace. Also they are ready to continue the war if the Entente Allies do not find the time propitious for such a discussion. While the Teutonic proposals of peace absorb the world's interest, the respective armies went on with their combats. Roumania and the Cerna River region in Serbia continue the sectors where most of the fighting is taking place. In Wallachia snow has intervened to check, but only slightly, the advance of the Central Powers against the Roumanians and the Russians. The town of Mizil, on the railway between Ploechti and Buzeu, has been captured, as also has the village of Urziceni, twenty miles to the southeast. Berlin announces that more than 10,000 additional Roumanians have been captured.

In the Carpathians and along the Moldavian frontier the Russians are continuing their violent attacks, but according to Berlin, without success. It is asserted by Berlin that the Russians in the Carpathians lost 30,000 men. Along the Cerna River the Entente Allies have again attacked viciously, but again have been repulsed with heavy casualties. Five Bulgarian posts south of the Limnitsa River have been captured by Entente troops. Snow has put an end to infantry activity north of Monastir.

On the front in France and Belgium there is a continuation of artillery activity and small operations by patrol parties.

An unofficial dispatch from Switzerland says the King of Greece has ordered a general mobilization. An official communication from Paris announced that the French admiral du Fournet, commander of the Entente naval forces in the Mediterranean, has been replaced by Admiral Gauthier.

Berlin reports the destruction by a submarine in the eastern Mediterranean of two big transport steamers loaded with war material. The British Press Bureau, however, denies that the vessels were transports.

A recent investigation made by the U. S. Public Health Service in connection with the studies of rural school children showed that 49.3 per cent had defective teeth, 21.1 per cent had two or more missing teeth, and only 16.9 per cent had had dental attention. Over 14 per cent never used a tooth brush, 48.2 per cent used one occasionally and only 27.7 per cent used one daily. Defective teeth reduce physical efficiency. Dirty suppurating, snaggle-toothed mouths are responsible for many cases of heart disease, rheumatism, and other chronic affections. The children are not responsible for the neglected state of their teeth. The ignorant and careless parent is to blame for this condition which hampers mental and physical growth and puts a permanent handicap on our future citizens. School teachers can and are doing much in inculcating habits of personal cleanliness on the rural school child but this will fail of the highest accomplishment unless parents co-operate heartily and continuously. This is a duty which we owe our children.

Florida has 18 millionaires and multi-millionaires, at least that many men pay income taxes on incomes of \$50,000 or over. Not necessary to add no newspaper men are in the list—Cocoa Star.

### Forty Percent of Orange Trees Are Seedlings

It will be remembered that the Citrus Seminar at the University of Florida in October, decided to standardize citrus varieties. This action was a result of an appeal made by Leo B. Scott of the United States Bureau of Plant Industry.

Mr. Scott said that the Florida citrus industry was suffering because of lack of standardization and that the fruit was discriminated against in the market because customers could not depend upon the grade of fruit.

It will also be remembered that a committee was appointed to select the orange varieties which should be standardized and that the Seminar approved their choice. The varieties selected were Parson Brown, Homosassa, Pineapple, Valencia and Lou Gim Gong.

That an attempt to standardize varieties was wise is shown by a survey made by the United States Bureau of Crop Estimates. This survey was undertaken to learn percentages of trees of the different varieties. C. C. Hare, field agent for the Bureau in Florida, calls attention to the report:

The percentages of trees of bearing age of the different varieties are as follows: Homosassa 2.2 percent; King 2.2; Lou Gim Gong 2.2; Parson Brown 3; Pineapple 13.5; Ruby Blood 2.3; seedling 40; Tangerine 3; Valencia (Tardiff) 11; all others combined 22.6.

Note that forty percent of the bearing trees are seedlings.

Property owners petitioned that the Tom Williams branch in the Arcadia Drainage District be straightened out to prevent overflow. Referred to attorney.

Regular steps were taken for a road petitioned for by M. F. Mizell and others.

The board recessed to Tuesday, December 12th.

E. Campbell was awarded the contract to paint the jail and repair the roof.

The following bonds were approved:

L. W. Whitehurst, \$2,000; S. B. Hogan, \$2,000; R. W. Roberts, \$500; H. G. Murphy, \$1,000; D. L. Skipper, \$2,000; W. M. Whitten, \$2,000; W. G. Welles, \$2,000; P. G. Shaver, \$1,000; J. W. Bullock, \$2,000; F. B. McClelland, \$2,000; J. L. Dishong, \$7,000; Cyril Baldwin, \$30,000.

The clerk was instructed to no-

tify all banks in the county that the board of county commissioners and the county board of public instruction would hold a joint session on December 12 for the purpose of considering the appointment of county depositories.

G. M. Collier was recommended for appointment as inspector of marks and brands for both live and slaughtered stock for district No. 10.

The attorney for the board was instructed to prepare an official ballot, sufficient in form, substance and number, for holding of the elections to be held in Districts 2 and 4.

The minutes of this board were amended by striking out the resolutions adopted on December 5th relative to the Murdock Drainage District.

Property owners petitioned that the Tom Williams branch in the Arcadia Drainage District be straightened out to prevent overflow. Referred to attorney.

Regular steps were taken for a road petitioned for by M. F. Mizell and others.

The board recessed to Tuesday, December 12th.

E. Campbell was awarded the contract to paint the jail and repair the roof.

The following bonds were approved:

L. W. Whitehurst, \$2,000; S. B. Hogan, \$2,000; R. W. Roberts, \$500; H. G. Murphy, \$1,000; D. L. Skipper, \$2,000; W. M. Whitten, \$2,000; W. G. Welles, \$2,000; P. G. Shaver, \$1,000; J. W. Bullock, \$2,000; F. B. McClelland, \$2,000; J. L. Dishong, \$7,000; Cyril Baldwin, \$30,000.